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"GEMS FOR THOUGHT"

Season of 1949

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No. 4

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Daylight Saving Time
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1949

"GEMS FOR THOUGHT"

Morning Radio Talk by DR. ROBBINS W. BARSTOW

Good morning. The word Refugee is one which embraces a vast deal of human woe. We have all read and heard much about the Displaced Persons, who are but a single major segment of the almost countless millions of the dispossessed throughout the world. Without lessening our concern for them in any degree, I would like this morning to speak of the others for whom Church World Service is seeking to provide assistance. Their plight is the same, everywhere, and their need identical, for clothing, food, medicines and personal services of various kinds.

For instance there are the hundreds of thousands in Korea, whose homes were destroyed by the Japanese, or who were forced to flee from them, or later from the Russians.

Then there are still hundreds of thousands of unsettled refugees in India and Pakistan, who lost everything they had in the tragic cross-migration that was forced upon them immediately upon the setting up of those two independent nations.

The refugee situation in China is so staggering that one hesitates to cite any figures. Furthermore, in the present confused state of affairs, there is little that can be done to alleviate the mass suffering of human beings, driven from place to place by the ill-fortunes of war, aggravated by floods and famines.

Crossing over to the Holy Land, we find another act in the world's tragedy, seven or eight hundred thousand driven from their homes, subsisting meagerly on the charity of their kinsmen and very short supplies from various relief agencies. At Christmas time, as we sing "O Little Town of Bethlehem," let us think of the thousands of destitute Christian refugees in that spot of blessed memory, and do what we can to speed help to them.

In Greece the same story is repeated, the survivors from scores and hundreds of villages destroyed by the guerillas crowding into already impoverished population centers, to make much worse a situation already bad.

And then completing the circuit of the globe, we come to Germany, with its many problems compounded, one of the most serious being that of the Refugees. Let me repeat that this does not mean the Displaced Persons in the technical sense, but the ten or twelve millions of German ethnic stock who from their former homes in East Prussia, or Eastern Silesia, or Sudetenland, or other neighboring countries were forced back into a greatly reduced territory, already

(over)

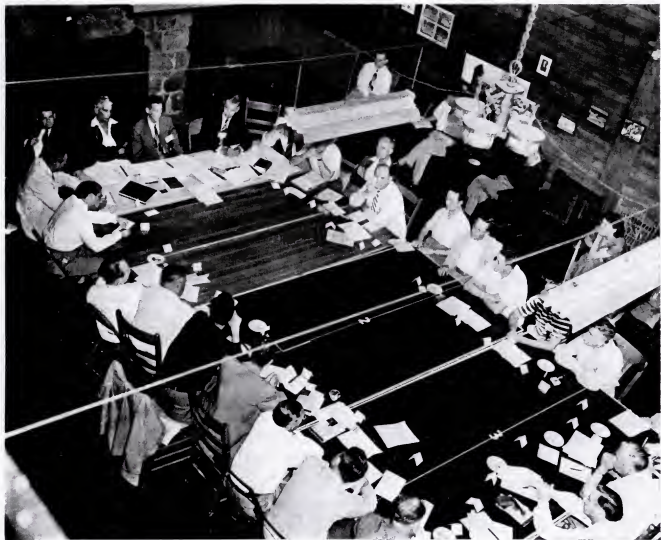
NATIONAL COUNCIL BULLETIN

A Service of Information, Interpretation, and Leadership for Member Associations

National Council, Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States
291 Broadway, New York 7, N. Y.

September, 1949

Vol. 23, No. 8



WHY DO PEOPLE WORK?

(Story on page 6)

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

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#67

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New York,

September 27, 1949

The Hon. Trygve Lie
Secretary General
United Nations
Lake Success, N.Y.

Sir:

1. On August 6, 1949, the Economic and Social Council adopted a resolution (E/1517) relating to the protection of refugees, at present the concern of the I.R.O., and those who may in the future be in a similar position. This resolution, i.e., requests you to prepare, for the consideration of the Fourth Session of the General Assembly, a plan for such organization within the framework of the United Nations as may be required to enable the United Nations to discharge the functions of international protection of refugees and related functions.

A propos of the type of organization to be suggested for consideration of the General Assembly, the afore-mentioned resolution provides two alternatives:

- (a) The establishment of a High Commissioner's Office under the control of the United Nations;
- (b) The establishment of a service within the Secretariat of the United Nations.

2. The World Jewish Congress has been active in the field of legal protection of refugees since its inception. It took part in all international gatherings relating to this matter and submitted memoranda to them on this subject. The World Jewish Congress, moreover, has among its affiliated organizations a number of groups consisting of refugees and displaced persons. In this double capacity the World Jewish Congress wishes to make the following suggestions in relation to the afore-mentioned alternatives:

- (a) The protection of refugees involves a great number and variety of important tasks. Its scope is more extensive by far than the protection which has to be afforded persons enjoying de jure and de facto status of national of a given country. The very fact of statelessness and/or that of being displaced from the refugees' own country, creates for them disadvantages in every sphere of life. They need protection in finding homes,

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FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

October 14, 1949

To: The Governor and Members of
The Pennsylvania Displaced Persons Commission.

Gentlemen:

When Congress opened the immigration gates that had been closed during World War 2, it set aside, or partially nullified long-standing statutes covering admission of aliens, and thereby brought into existence numerous social and economic problems which were without precedent. To cope with the task of receiving several hundred thousand Europeans who had been displaced by the rigors of war, the United States, in concert with other members of the United Nations, organized the International Refugee Organization as the overseas agency through which displaced persons desiring to come to this country could be screened and serviced and placed aboard ship under procedures which actually were deviations from immigration statutes. The United States is the most generous contributing member-nation, allocating more than \$141,000,000 to this project in the Federal fiscal years 1948 and 1949.

Approval of membership in IRO and the establishment of the Federal Displaced Persons Commission to service applications for admission to the United States was authorized by Congress in Public Law 774 - 80th Congress - approved by the President June 25, 1948. Shortly after the Federal Commission began to function, Governor Duff organized this Commission, of which you are a member by his appointment, to facilitate the work of the Federal Commission by cooperating with existing Pennsylvania private agencies - generally religious, fraternal and civic organizations - already engaged in this resettlement project.

The Commission's report of activity for the year ended September 30 is submitted for consideration and comment. It is my hope that the Governor will find our efforts of sufficient value to justify his creation of the Commission. Admittedly, we have not achieved the maximum of excellence - due principally to lack of procedural precedents, varied and uncertain interpretations of the DP Act. But we have served the IRO, Federal and State governments, voluntary agencies, the DPs and the public with zeal and are entitled, I believe, to the grade "satisfactory". With our accumulated know-how, and with the promised enactment by Congress of interpretative amendments we can, I am certain, earn the rating of "exceptional" in the year ahead.

Sincerely yours,

0-50-129-1032

OCTOBER, 1949



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OCTOBER REPORT

1949

MUNICH-PASING

J. NOIA ZONE DIR.

ידיד שער וועלט'אקאמגרעס

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.Zg #771

New York,

November 10, 1949

H. E. Dr. Carlos E. Stolk, Chairman
Third Committee
General Assembly
United Nations
Lake Success, N. Y.

Sir:

I have the honor to send you the enclosed statement titled "Memorandum Concerning the Future Protection of Stateless Persons and Refugees by the United Nations" on behalf of the World Jewish Congress, an organization granted consultative status (b) by the Economic and Social Council. This memorandum makes a number of suggestions in connection with the report of the Secretary General submitted to the General Assembly (Doc. 248(IX)A) and the draft resolution of the Republic of France (Doc. E/C.3/529) presented to the Third Committee.

In bringing this document to your attention, we hope that you and the members of the Third Committee will find it possible to give consideration to its contents in discussing plans for the establishment of United Nations machinery to protect refugees and stateless persons after the International Refugee Organization shall have ceased to exist.

Respectfully yours,

Robert S. Marcus

Robert S. Marcus
Political Director

RSM:st
enc.

ידידיו של וועלט'ס קאנגרעס

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New York, November 21, 1949

Mr. Manfred Lachs, Chairman
Sixth Committee
General Assembly
United Nations
Lake Success, N.Y.

Sir:

I have the honor to send you the enclosed statement titled "Memorandum concerning a Convention on Missing Persons", on behalf of the World Jewish Congress, an organization granted consultative status (b) by the Economic and Social Council. This memorandum makes a number of observations in connection with the Convention which will be discussed by the members of the Sixth Committee.

In bringing this document to your attention, we hope that you and the members of the Sixth Committee will find it possible to give consideration to its contents, especially as to the urgency of international action to regularize the personal status of large numbers of survivors of Nazism as well as to establish an effective procedure to govern the disposition of the property and assets of missing persons.

Respectfully yours,

Robert S. Marcus
Robert S. Marcus
Political Director.

RSM:ew
Enc.



US-ZONE GERMANY

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NOVEMBER REPORT

MUNICH-PASING

J. NOIA ZONE DIR.



Vol. 6, No. 2

November, 1949

ISSUED BY THE BOYS' WORK COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION IN THE INTEREST OF CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP AMONG YOUTH

The Outlook for Boys' Work Secretaries — One Man's Opinions

By James L. Bethune, Program Director, New York City Y.M.C.A.

I entered the secretarship of the Young Men's Christian Association as an assistant boys' work secretary in 1915, fresh out of college, and I mean "fresh." I was employed in one of Cleveland's "boys' branches," which had been established in outlying neighborhoods to be near where boys lived. This branch had been opened in 1911 in the first building in the country to be (1) originally built for Y.M.C.A. purposes and (2) opened exclusively for boys. Fact is that when a boy member of that branch reached his eighteenth birthday, he was told, reluctantly but firmly, that he was no longer eligible for membership in that boys' branch; now he must go to the Central Branch for men. Cleveland Y.M.C.A. was determined to do right by boys' work, so all men were turned away from this boys' branch lest they barge in and push the boys into a basement room as they had been seen to do in some other Y.M.C.A.'s. At this same date M. D. Crackel in his famous West Side Branch, Cleveland, had some men members but was operating on the basis of "boys are worked with and men are tolerated."

I have given this personal history in order that you may know the soil in which my Y.M.C.A. tree of experience gets its roots. It was "boys' work first and foremost." That was the atmosphere in the Cleveland Y.M.C.A., I am glad to remember. Elsewhere in the country boys' work was not uniformly the fair-haired child. Fact is in many

places boys' work felt it was the stepchild of the Y.M.C.A. A numerous body of boys' work secretaries were debating whether boys' work should remain a part of the Young Men's Christian Association where it seemed doomed, they thought, to be a poor second fiddle or whether it should become a separate enterprise free to make its heart appeal direct to supporters. These were the boys' work secretaries who described themselves as "first of all boys' workers and secondly Y.M.C.A. secretaries."

Those were some of the problems of status and professional future with which my beginning generation of boys' work secretaries struggled. The year 1949 brings its own crop of problems, with some of which the present writer will attempt to deal. He hopes that thirty-four years of watching the problems of boys' work secretaries evolve and resolve may provide a useful background of philosophy.

Four Problems are Posed

Suppose we state the problems we are going to deal with:

1. What is the professional outlook for a secretary who has become a competent boys' worker?
2. Is boys' work a life-long career in the secretarship?
3. Must boys' workers become general secretaries in order to achieve status and income commensurate with their family obligations?
4. Should boys' work secretaries re-

cret seeing many of their number become general secretaries?

The Background for the Answers

When I make my direct answers to the four questions just stated, it will be against the background of certain basic concepts, as follows:

1. Just as all practitioners of medicine are first of all "doctors," whatever specialization they may afterward develop, so all Y.M.C.A. men are first of all "Y.M.C.A. secretaries," afterward becoming in some measure specialists in boys' work or in physical education or whatever. All secretaries share in some degree a common set of functions, among which are:

- Acting as "secretary" for a body of members.
- Making a Christian impact on persons.
- Group work, not alone with members but also with boards and committees, with staffs, etc.
- Counseling, not only with members but also with volunteers, with other secretaries, etc.
- Interpreting ideas, organizations, persons, by written and spoken word.
- Promotion of ideas, program, membership, business features, etc.
- Administration of personnel, of money, or equipment, large or small.

2. The boys' work of the Young Men's Christian Association, as a matter of history, was developed by the young men members who were touched by the pathetic conditions of the young ragamuffins who hung around the rooms of

(Continued on page 6)

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DISPLACED PERSONS IN EUROPE AND THEIR
RESETTLEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

REPORT

OF A

SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PURSUANT TO

H. Res. 238

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMITTEE ON
THE JUDICIARY TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY
OF IMMIGRATION AND NATION-
ALITY PROBLEMS



JANUARY 20, 1950.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House
on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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